

WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

It is unlawful to fail to comply with bag, possession, and season limits described below. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410((7)) Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

Bag Limit: One (1) elk per hunter during the license year, except where otherwise permitted by department rule. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the department will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

Hunting Method: Elk hunters must select only one of the hunting methods: Modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader.

Elk Tag Areas: Elk hunters must choose either Eastern or Western Washington to hunt in and buy the appropriate tag for that area.

Any Bull Elk Seasons: Open only to the taking of elk with visible antlers; bull calves are illegal.

Antler Point: To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long, measured on the longest side.

Branch: A branch is defined as any projection off the main antler beam that is at least one inch long, measured on the longest side, and longer than it is wide.

Spike Bull Antler Restrictions: Bull elk taken in spike-only game management units (GMUs) must have at least one antler with no branches originating more than 4 inches above where the antler attaches to the skull.

Spike-only GMUs: 145-154, 162-186, 249, and 336-368.

True Spike - Bull Antler Restrictions: Neither antler of bull elk taken in GMUs 251, and 328-335 can have branching originating more than 4 inches above where the antlers attach to the skull. Under the true-spike restriction, taking an elk that has two points on one side or antler points within one inch of the definitions regarding length of point, or point of origination, is an infraction under RCW 77.15.160. All other types of violations of the true-spike restriction are subject to current penalties and assessments under RCW 77.15.410 and 77.15.420.

True-spike GMUs: 251, 328-335.

3-point Antler Restrictions: Legal bull elk must have at least 3 antler points on one side, with at least 2 antler points above the ear. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long. Antler restrictions apply to all hunters during any open season.

3-point GMUs: All of Western Washington, except for GMUs 448, 454, 564, 652 for archers, 666, 684, and Elk Area 4941.

Permit-only Units: The following GMUs are closed to elk hunting during general elk seasons: 157, 371, 418, 485, 522, 556, 621, 636, and 653.

GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting: 437 (except for Elk Area 4941) and 490.

Areas with Special Restrictions: There are modern firearm restrictions in GMU 334 and portions of GMU 660. GMU 554 is open only for early

archery and muzzleloader seasons. Elk Area 6064 in GMU 638 (Quinault) is open to master hunters only.

Elk Tag Areas

Eastern Washington: All 100, 200, and 300 GMUs.

EA - Eastern Washington Archery Tag

EF - Eastern Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

EM - Eastern Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Western Washington: All 400, 500, and 600 GMUs.

WA - Western Washington Archery Tag

WF - Western Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

WM - Western Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Modern Firearm General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid modern firearm elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: May use modern firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EF	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 204	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Any bull
		145 through 154, 162 through 169, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 175 through 186, 249, 336 through 368	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Spike bull
		251, 328, 329, 334, 335	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	True spike bull
		Elk Area 3722*	Sept. 8-23	Sept. 7-22	Sept. 6-21	Antlerless only
		124 through 142, 372, 382, 388	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: 371, Elk Area 3912	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2016	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2017	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2018	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911**	Nov. 14 - Dec. 15	Nov. 12 - Dec. 15	Nov. 11 - Dec. 15	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911** 2nd tag.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 30	Aug. 1 - Oct. 28	Aug. 1 - Oct. 27	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access.						
**Master hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the August to October early master hunter season must purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Only master hunters with an eastside elk tag can purchase this tag. Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October 30, 2015, August 1 - October 28, 2016, and August 1 - October 27, 2017. Only one antlerless elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911, unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit. Master hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the November to December late master hunter season may use their unused general season elk tag, but are not eligible to use an Elk Area 3911, master hunter, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used during either master hunter Elk Area 3911 hunt. All master hunters participating in an Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.						

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Legal Elk
Western Washington	WF	460, 466, 503, 505 through 520, 524 (except Elk Area 5066), 530, 550, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 through 651, 652 (except for Elk Area 6014), 654 through 684. Except master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638.	Nov. 7-18	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	3 pt. min.
		501, 504, Elk Area 6014	Nov. 7-18	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407, 448, 564, 666	Nov. 7-18	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	Any elk
		454	Nov. 7-18	Nov. 5-16	Nov. 4-15	Any bull

Archery General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid archery elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Bow and arrow only, as defined under WAC 232-12-054.

Special Notes: Archery tag holders can hunt only during archery seasons and must hunt with archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054). Archery elk hunters may apply for special bull permits. Please see permit table for tag eligibility for all elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101 through 142, 204, 243, 247, 249, 250, 373, 379, 381, 388	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Any elk
		162, 166, 169, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 186	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Spike bull
		328, 329, 335	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	True spike bull or antlerless
		145, 149, 154, Elk Area 1010, Elk Area 1013, 163, 175, 178, 181, 334, 336, 340, 352, 356, 364	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	448, 454, 564, 652 (except Elk area 6013), 666, 684	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Any elk
		407	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	Any elk
		501 through 505, 520, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), Elk Area 6061, 654, 660, 667 through 673, 681, 699	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 524 (except Elk Area 5066), 530, 601 through 618, 627, 633, 638 (except Master Hunters only in Elk Area 6064), 642 through 651, 658, 663	Sept. 12-24	Sept. 10-22	Sept. 9-21	3 pt. min.
Late Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101, 105, 108, 117, 121, 204	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any bull
		124, 127, 373, 388	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		178	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Antlerless only
		Elk Area 1010, 163	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2016	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2017	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2018	Antlerless only

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Legal Elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange.	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: 371, Elk Area 3912. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2016	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2017	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2018	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911**. Must wear hunter orange.	Nov. 14 - Dec. 15	Nov. 12 - Dec. 15	Nov. 11 - Dec. 15	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911** 2nd tag. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 30	Aug. 1 - Oct. 28	Aug. 1 - Oct. 27	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
		328, 334, 335	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	True spike bull or antlerless
		336, 342, 346, 352, 364, Elk Area 3681	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	Elk Area 4601, 503, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013), 667, 672, 681, and 699. Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638.	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407, 448, 454, 564, 666	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		603, 612, 615, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 648	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
		506, 520, 530	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	Antlerless only
		<p>*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access.</p> <p>**Master hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the August to October early master hunter season must purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Only master hunters with an eastside elk tag can purchase this tag. Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October 30, 2015, August 1 - October 28, 2016, and August 1 - October 27, 2017. Only one antlerless elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911, unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit. Master hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the November to December late master hunter season may use their unused general season elk tag, but are not eligible to use an Elk Area 3911, master hunter, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used during either master hunter Elk Area 3911 hunt. All master hunters participating in an Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.</p>				

Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: A valid muzzleloader elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Muzzleloader, as defined under WAC 232-12-051, or bow and arrow, as defined under WAC 232-12-054.

Special Notes: Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during the muzzleloader seasons. Only hunters with tags identified in the Special Elk Permits tables may apply for special elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	101 through 121, 204, 247	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any bull
		124 through 142, 245, 250	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 175, 178, 181, 336 through 342, 352 through 368	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Spike bull
		328, 329, 335, Elk Area 2051	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	True spike bull

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Legal Elk
Western Washington	WM	407	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		Elk Area 4601	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		448, 454, 564, 666, 684	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		460, 466, 505, 506, 510, 513, 516, 520, 524 (except Elk Area 5066), 530, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 602, 603, 607, 612, 615, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 642, 648, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min.
		501, 503, 504, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 654, 667	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 1-7	Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min. or antlerless
Late Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	130 through 142	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		204. Must wear hunter orange.	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any bull
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange.	Oct. 31 - Nov. 15	Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: 371, Elk Area 3912. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2016	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2017	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2018	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911**, Must wear hunter orange.	Nov. 14 - Dec. 15	Nov. 12 - Dec. 15	Nov. 11 - Dec. 15	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911** 2nd tag. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 30	Aug. 1 - Oct. 28	Aug. 1 - Oct. 27	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	407	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless).	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		448, 454, 564, 666, 684	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		568, 574, 578	Nov. 25-30	Nov. 23-30	Nov. 22-30	3 pt. min.
		601, 618, 651, 658, 667	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
	**Master hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the August to October early master hunter season must purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Only master hunters with an eastside elk tag can purchase this tag. Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October 30, 2015, August 1 - October 28, 2016, and August 1 - October 27, 2017. Only one antlerless elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911, unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit. Master hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the November to December late master hunter season may use their unused general season elk tag, but are not eligible to use an Elk Area 3911, master hunter, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used during either master hunter Elk Area 3911 hunt. All master hunters participating in an Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.					